

CLAIMS

1. An amino acid sequence comprising the sequence presented as Formula I or a variant, homologue, fragment or derivative thereof.

2. An amino acid sequence comprising the sequence presented as Formula I.

3. A nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence as defined in claim 1 or claim 2.

4. A nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence presented as SEQ ID No. 2 or SEQ ID No. 4 or SEQ ID No. 6 or a variant, homologue, fragment or derivative thereof.

5. A nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence presented as SEQ ID No. 2 or SEQ ID No. 4 or SED ID No. 6.

6. A nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5~~.

7. A nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence according to claim 6.

8. A vector comprising the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 7~~.

9. A host cell into which has been incorporated the nucleotide sequence according to any one of claims 3 to 7.

10. An assay method for identifying an agent that can affect PDE<sub>XIV</sub> activity or expression, the assay method comprising

contacting an agent with an amino acid according to claim 1 or claim 2 or a nucleotide sequence according to any one of claims 3 to 7; and

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A

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15. An enzyme capable of having an immunological reaction with an antibody raised against PDE<sub>XIV</sub>.

16. A nucleotide sequence coding for a PDE<sub>XIV</sub> wherein the nucleotide sequence is obtainable from NCIMB 40995 or NCIMB 40996 or NCIMB 41027.

17. A PDE wherein the PDE<sub>XIV</sub> is expressible from a nucleotide sequence obtainable from NCIMB 40995 or NCIMB 40996 or NCIMB 41027.

18. Use of an agent which has an effect on the activity of PDE<sub>XIV</sub> or the expression thereof in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease or condition associated with PDE<sub>XIV</sub>.

19. Use of a PDE<sub>XIV</sub> gene and/or expression product thereof in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and/or modulation of disturbances associated with an imbalance or disturbance of PDE<sub>XIV</sub>.

20. Use according to claim 19 wherein the PDE<sub>XIV</sub> and/or expression product thereof is used to screen for agents that can modulate the activity of the PDE<sub>XIV</sub> and/or expression product thereof.

21. A PDE<sub>XIV</sub> agonist wherein the PDE<sub>XIV</sub> is as defined in claim 1 or is the nucleotide sequence coding for same.

22. A PDE<sub>XIV</sub> antagonist wherein the PDE<sub>XIV</sub> is as defined in claim 1 or is the nucleotide sequence coding for same.

23. A recombinant PDE<sub>XIV</sub> enzyme.

24. A recombinant nucleotide sequence encoding a PDE<sub>XIV</sub> enzyme.

25. A PDE<sub>XIV</sub> enzyme substantially as described herein.

SECRET 54460

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